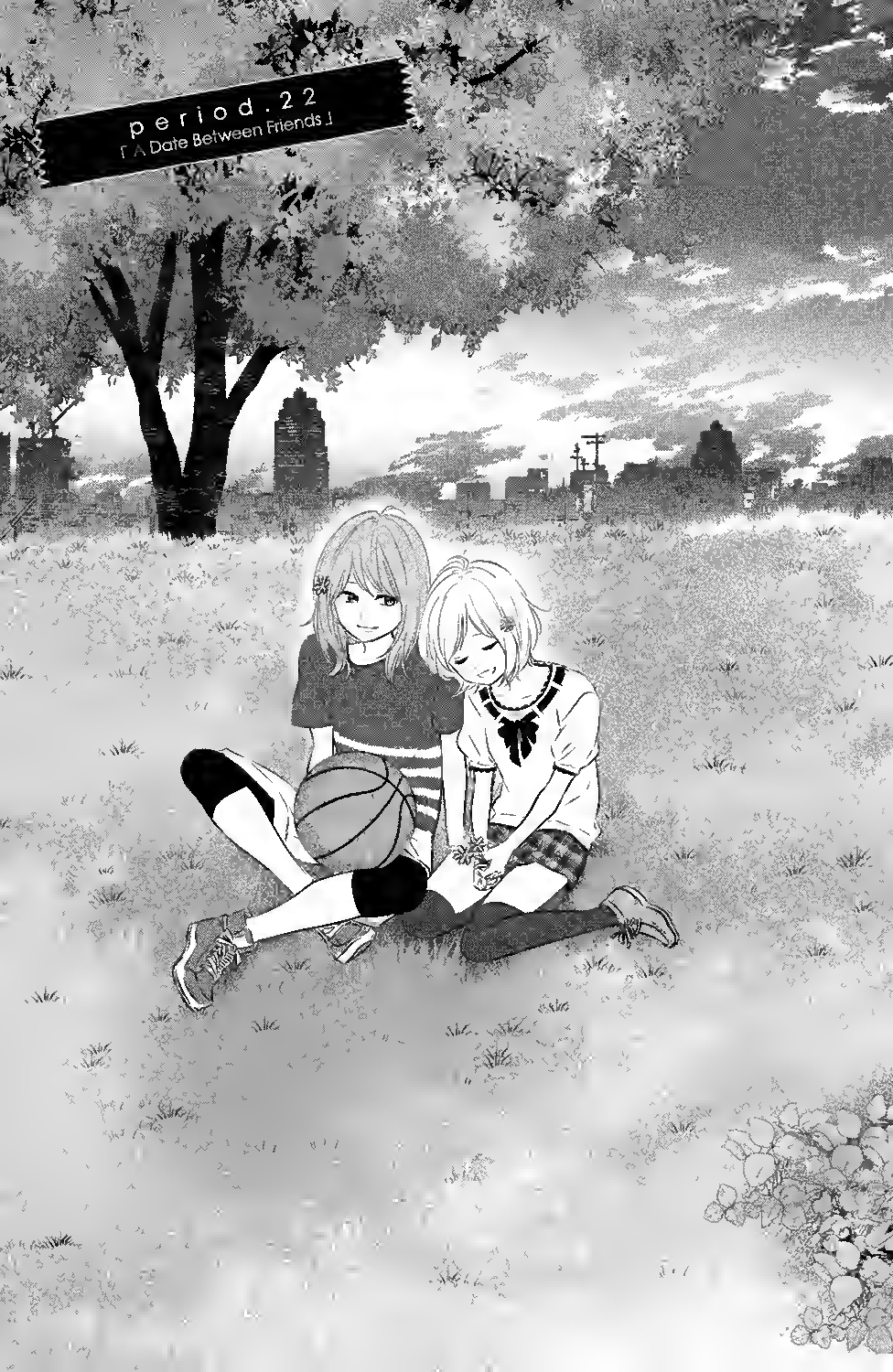
# period.22
「A Date Between Friends」



"NOW THAT YOU'VE WON THE CHAMPIONSHIP, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO MOST AT THE MOMENT?"
POST-GAME INTERVIEW
with the winning team of the
High School Basketball Championship
HOUJOU HIGH
#7 KAMIYAMA AYA 2ND YEAR
"MEET UP WITH SOMEONE IMPORTANT TO ME."

Solution of the Silhouette Quiz

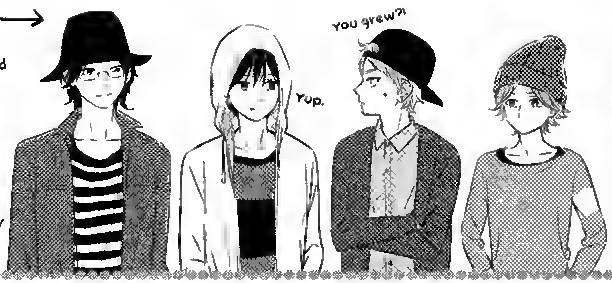
There will be no twists whatsoever this time! (lol)

What I'm going to tell you kind of classifies as news

Lately Towa has grown (178cm→180cm)

Incidentally, Aya-chan also grew (179cm→181cm)

You're still losing out to him Towa.



I can't believe him! I mean, he's clearly trying to mess with us!!
SHUT UP, RUI.
LET'S CHANGE AND GET OUT OF HERE QUICKLY.
WHAT THE-!? HE JUST SAYS SOMETHING LIKE THAT
DURING AN INTERVIEW!?
SHUT
SLIP
KER-CHAK
THAT'S JUST LIKE STRAIGHT UP TELLING ME TO COMPETE WITH HIM
DUMBASS.
Might be corny but don't let that stop you
"I DEDICATE THIS VICTORY TO NANA-SAN!" (SMUG LOOK)
RYUUJI! IF THAT EVER HAPPENS TO YOU, TELL 'EM!!
...IS IT JUST ME OR DOES THIS SEEM LIKE IT'S MORE SERIOUS THAN A CRUSH?
!/,
?
"SOMEONE IMPORTANT TO ME."

SO HE'S MORE THAN JUST A CHILD-HOOD FRIEND TO MITSUKI AFTER ALL?
SHH
MITSUKI SAID SO HERSELF.
IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS, REALLY.
AND WHY THAT COURT IS SO IMPORTANT TO HER.
WHY SHE'S WORKING PART-TIME AT THAT CAFÉ,
...HE KNOWS ABOUT THE REASON
WHAT?
No, that's all I'm gonna say.
??
YEAH...
"IF HE WERE A GIRL" STORIES.
THOUGH I THINK IT'S ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE
OH, REALLY...?
THAT MEANS THEY SHARE A STRONGER BOND THAN EXPECTED.

DANGLE
I MIGHT BE A LITTLE TOO EARLY...
THEY'RE PROBABLY DOING THEIR BEST AT PRACTICE RIGHT NOW...
I'm also gonna do my best today.
WOO-HOO!
KYA-HA-HA-HA!
I need to be cautious and not get caught in his pace.
grip
I have to pull that off somehow...

LOOK, IT'S MITSUKI-CHAN!
SHE'S PROBABLY HANGING OUT WITH THE OTHERS AGAIN.
SHE COULD HAVE WAITED IN HERE, THOUGH. IT'S SO HOT OUTSIDE.
RIGHT?
...OH.
...HUH??
Who's that?!
Is he hitting on her? No way, right?!
AH.
DON'T TELL ME THAT'S...
EH?!
YOU KNOW HIM, PAPA?
NOT REALLY...
YOU KNOW, APPARENTLY MITSUKI-CHAN USED TO LIVE IN AN APARTMENT COMPLEX NEARBY WHEN SHE WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL.
A WHILE BACK, SHE WAS OFTEN TALKING ABOUT HOW SHE MIGHT BE ABLE TO MEET A FRIEND FROM THAT TIME BY WORKING PART-TIME HERE.
That's why I thought it could be him...

WOW... A FRIEND, HUH...
Let's get out of the sun first of all
Okay
I NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO BE HERE FIRST.
IF ANYTHING, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT STAND ME UP.
...I wouldn't do that.
REALLY? YOU WERE SO HESITANT ABOUT THIS, THOUGH.
I was...
But I changed my mind.
?

OOH!
FOR OUR DATE?
I'M UP FOR THIS TODAY.
HUH...?
TODAY, I WANT TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH THE GROWN-UP AYA-CHAN, PROPERLY THIS TIME!
NO, ON THE CONTRARY!!
... Because, to be honest,
I've been uneasy around you ever since we met again.
YEAH.
... GROWN-UP?

WHEN YOU CALLED AND SAID
"LET'S HAVE FUN TOGETHER LIKE WE USED TO",
I'LL ADMIT I WAS A LITTLE HAPPY.
I mean, our time together back then is still important to me, even now.
BUT I REALLY HATE THE PART OF ME THAT CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THIS WAY...
THAT'S WHY,
uh... I'd rather not call this a date...
J-just a normal...
YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE UP FOR ALL THE YEARS WE DIDN'T SEE EACH OTHER TODAY, RIGHT?
... GOT IT.

OKAY THEN, WHERE DO YOU WANNA GO?
HUH...?
YES...!
NOPE, NOT AT ALL.
DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T EITHER?
SORRY, I DIDN'T GIVE IT ANY THOUGHT.
All I did was pep talk myself
OH..
THAT'S HOW IT WAS!
RIGHT..
BECAUSE THAT'S HOW IT USED TO BE WHEN WE HUNG OUT IN PAST, TOO.
ALL WE DID WAS PROMISE TO MEET UP.
You can do it!
Toss, toss!!

I see.
In some way, Aya-chan might have been feeling the same as me.
SURE!
HOW ABOUT WE JUST GO FOR A CASUAL STROLL?
GOOD THROW!
What?!
I don't want that!
HA HA HA!
Then maybe I should buy it.
It suits you well!
Thanks!
Congrats on winning the Inter-High Championship!

Gosh!
IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I LAST CAME HERE!
WE USED TO COME HERE MAINLY WHEN LOTS OF PEOPLE WERE PLAYING ON THE COURT.
RIGHT.
The cool breeze feels nice.
IT'S MY FIRST TIME HERE EVER SINCE THOSE DAYS.
Oh.
WHEN DID YOU ACTUALLY RETURN TO JAPAN, AYA-CHAN?
AROUND THE TIME I ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL.
I SEE.
So it's been two years
I USED TO DROP BY THE COURT A LOT FOR A WHILE AFTER I CAME BACK.

YOU KNOW THERE'S ONLY ONE REASON FOR IT.
YOU DID?
WHY...?
.....
...AND YET, I'D COME HERE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.
I SEE.
THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD HAVE RAN INTO EACH OTHER THEN.
WE MOVED WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
MY LITTLE SISTER GOT BIGGER, SO WE HAD TO GET A NEW HOUSE.
YEAH... AND WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, MY LIFE MOSTLY TOOK PLACE IN MY NEIGHBOR-HOOD.

...I THOUGHT YOU'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME.
REALLY...?
WE PROBABLY MISSED EACH OTHER ALL THE TIME.
I want to become a—
"A-And that's why..
Essay Recital
There's no way I would.
HAHA!
Even then you were by my side.
CLENCH
PFF
giggle
giggle
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
The end.
BOW
MITSUKI!
HOW DID THEY LIKE YOUR ESSAY?
Even after we got separated, whenever something was up,
EVERYONE APPLAUDED.
HOW WAS THE RECITAL?
Welcome back!
Yeah, how was it?
Sis, you're amazing!!

That's great! Good job!
Yeah
But you still read it
AHAHA!
I would always think of Aya chan.
I...
I made lots of mistakes because I was so scared that I was shaking all over
I've been wanting to meet you so bad all this time
The truth is that
...Mi-
I MEAN THE AYA-CHAN I KNEW AS A GIRL.

I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME.
UH HUH...
YOU, THE GIRL.
(said it twice)
And thus he's restraining himself
SIGH...
DIDN'T WE MEET UP TODAY TO FAMILIARIZE OURSELVES AGAIN?
...SAY, MITSUKI.
OKAY, I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU THEN.
...YOU'RE RIGHT.
I'm sorry
GO AHEAD.
.....
I CAN'T CHANGE THAT BUT EVERYTHING ELSE IS STILL THE SAME.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A GUY, YOU KNOW.

Well, it was already too late to...
...HUH?
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL ME THAT YOU WERE A GUY BACK THEN?
!
RISE
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY,
BUT WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO JUMPED TO CONCLUSIONS IN THE FIRST PLACE?
YEAH, BUT
IT MIGHT NOT MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO YOU WHETHER YOU'RE A BOY OR A GIRL...
JUMP UP
BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU WERE LYING TO ME IT DEFINITELY HAS TO DO WITH WHY I CAN'T TRUST YOU NOW!
YOU DIDN'T EXPECT US TO BECOME FRIENDS EITHER AT FIRST, RIGHT?
I DIDN'T
PEOPLE USED TO MISTAKE ME FOR A GIRL A LOT, SO I JUST DIDN'T BOTHER CORRECTING THEM ANYMORE EVENTUALLY.

But
BUT THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE SPILLED THE BEANS AFTER WE BECAME FRIENDS...!
.....
I mean, isn't it strange?
If he'd just said one word back then, our relationship might be...
He's gone!
HUH?!

Bye, see you!
Huh??
Aya-chan...?
RUN
Ahaha~
ordinary
ordinary
Huh~ Oh, really~
HUH!?
I'VE GOT SOME-THING GOOD, MITSUKI!
Oh!
I thought we were having a serious conversation just now...
HUH...? THAT'S WEIRD...
LET'S GO DO THIS RIGHT AWAY!
HUH??
Do what?!
Something good...?
...EH?
YUP, IT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER.
I DON'T THINK HE FEELS LIKE CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN US AT ALL...

NANA-SAN...!
You're early today.
MITSUKI HAS A DAY OFF?
YEAH.
'Sup
Hello.
Welcome!
Words cafe.
THE INTERVIEW IN THE MAGAZINE IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN THE OTHER ONE.
AS EXPECTED, THEY DIDN'T INCLUDE THE "IMPORTANT SOMEONE~" PART.
HOUJOU WINS!!
EVEN YOU KNOW WHO HE IS, NANA-CHAN?
NO... I JUST THOUGHT HE LOOKED LIKE SOMEONE I SAW HANG OUT WITH MITSUKI-CHAN...
AH!
IT'S HIM!!
HOUJOU

WHAT?
...Huh?
He must be amazing, appearing in magazines and such!
I SEE! A CHILDHOOD FRIEND!
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. HE'S MITSUKI'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND.
I SAW THEM TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY.
GOSH, SO YOU ALL KNOW ABOUT HIM!
Excuse me!
Ah coming!
Y-YEAH... I JUST SAW THEM BRIEFLY THOUGH.
THEY WERE TOGETHER TODAY?
...AH!
MEETING HER AS SOON AS THE INTER-HIGHS ARE OVER, HE'S GIVING MITSUKI QUITE THE SPECIAL TREATMENT, DON'T YOU THINK SO TOO?
HMM.
What?
glance

MITSUKI.
YUKATA RENTAL HAS STARTED

IS MITSUKI THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE?!
HUH!?
So slow...

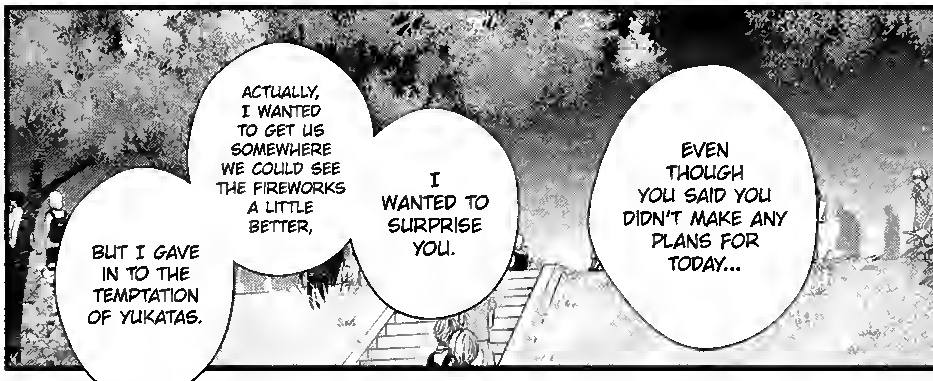
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT.
Thanks.
BUT THE STORE CLERKS WERE VERY ACCOMMODATING AND TRIED THEIR BEST.
THEY DIDN'T HAVE MY SIZE.
IT SUITS YOU!
YOU LOOK CUTE!
OH, ME TOO...!
THEY DID MY HAIR FOR FREE.
YUP!
THAT'S GOOD.
I REALLY ENJOYED IT BECAUSE THEY WERE SO NICE AND POLITE!
?
I got all excited without meaning to
That's not what I wanted to say...!
...Wait.
gasp
No...!

第2回
納涼
SECOND SUMMER EVENING FIREWORKS DISPLAY
花火大会
2016年8月 AUGUST
19:30-20:30
YUKATA RENTAL HAS STARTED
YOU KNEW, DIDN'T YOU?
ABOUT ALL OF THIS?

CHATTER
THERE WILL BE FIREWORKS LATER, RIGHT?
CHATTER

I only knew because of the flyer I got
OK!
YUKATA RENTAL HAS STARTED
NO, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD RENT YUKATAS.

I DID KNOW ABOUT THE FIREWORKS, THOUGH.
So that's why we've been wandering around here.
.....


EVEN THOUGH YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T MAKE ANY PLANS FOR TODAY...
I WANTED TO SURPRISE YOU.
ACTUALLY, I WANTED TO GET US SOMEWHERE WE COULD SEE THE FIREWORKS A LITTLE BETTER,
BUT I GAVE IN TO THE TEMPTATION OF YUKATAS.

Right... Today's his long-awaited day off from training.
YEAH.
YOU MEAN THE BASKETBALL CLUB?
YUKATAS ARE GREAT! IT'S MY FIRST TIME WEARING ONE.
I'LL BRAG ABOUT IT IN FRONT OF EVERYONE TOMORROW.
OH... UH...
gasp
HM?
YOUR YUKATA SUITS YOU TOO, AYA-CHAN!
JUST LIKE THE OTHERS LAST TIME...
I wish I'd considered a little more what Aya-chan would enjoy...
REALLY?
YEAH.
I'M HAVING A LOT OF FUN TODAY, MITSUKI.

POTATO BUTTER
APPLE
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT, I ALWAYS HAVE THE MOST FUN WHEN I'M WITH YOU.
AND THAT HASN'T CHANGED.
LET'S GO.
GRILLED CORN ON THE COB
HOW ABOUT WE GO TAKE A LOOK AT THE FOOD STALLS?
We still have a little time to spare
Huh?
THEN WHAT ABOUT BASKET-BALL...?
THE MOST...?
S-SURE...

I wonder where that cam from?
THAT SOUNDED LIKE FIRE-WORKS.
OH.
SOMEWHERE AROUND THE MINI BASKET-BALL COURT...
OH. NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT THERE'S A FIREWORKS DISPLAY TODAY.
DOES THAT MEAN MITSUKI AND KAMIYAMA WENT ON A DATE TO SEE FIRE-WORKS?!
...AH!!
BOOM
toss
WELL...
I GUESS IT'S VERY LIKELY.

That's not it!
WHAT? DO YOU LIKE MITSUKI?
Whoa, kinda pisses me off.
CLUNK
I HEARD.
THEY MIGHT BE ON A DATE TO SEE FIRE-WORKS.
Not really.
Isn't Kamiyama kinda pissing you off, too?
CLUNK
.....
...DON'T OVERDO IT.
...IS IT BOTHERING YOU?
...NO.
STOP LOOKING FOR A REACTION ALL THE TIME.
toss

...BESIDES, HE HAD A CONNECTION WITH HER IN THE PAST. THAT CAN'T BE CHANGED.
I MEAN, WE'RE LIKE THAT TOO.
Seriously?
Whoa! I just saw it a bit!
MAKES ME WONDER IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO ABOUT THAT.
HOW ABOUT YOU INVITE HER TO SEE THE NEXT FIREWORKS DISPLAY WITH YOU FOR NOW?
BOOM
Woah! I saw it!
...YEAH.

BOOM
Wow, such a clear view!!
Good job finding this place!
...AH! OUCH!
!?
rustle
LOOKS LIKE IT GOT STUCK ON THIS TREE
WELL, MY HAIR
WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH... I'm fine
I ALWAYS DO AT LEAST THIS MUCH RESEARCH BEFORE-HAND.
Goes without saying
I SEE.
You're used to this, aren't you

Maybe I can fix it...
EVEN THOUGH THEY WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO DO MY HAIR.
BUT THE COMB CAME OFF...
GIVE IT TO ME.
THIS IS THE EXACT OPPOSITE FROM BACK THEN.
Huh?
YOU THINK YOU'LL MANAGE?
JUST LEAVE IT TO ME.
THE OPPO-SITE...? OH!
Yeah!
YEAH...
SURE FEELS NOSTALGIC.
3H-222

BOOM
... HEY, AYA-CHAN.
BEING TREATED LIKE A GIRL WHEN WE WERE PLAYING TOGETHER BACK THEN, LIKE WITH YOUR HAIR,
DID YOU ACTUALLY HATE IT?
NOT AT ALL.
IT MADE ME GLAD THAT I GREW MY HAIR OUT.
BECAUSE YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE HAVING A LOT OF FUN WITH IT.
Haha...
UP TO THAT POINT, I ACTUALLY HATED IT, YOU KNOW.
MY LONG HAIR.
I like it now, though.
HUH...? THEN WHY DID YOU HAVE LONG HAIR?
...THE TRUTH IS,
?

BACK THEN, I WAS ALWAYS ALONE SINCE MY PARENTS WERE BUSY WITH WORK.
THAT BEING THE CASE, I STARTED PLAYING BASKETBALL BECAUSE I WANTED TO BECOME GOOD AT THE SPORTS MY FATHER LOVED.
AND SINCE I LIKED IT WHEN MY MOTHER CUT MY HAIR, I WAITED FOR HER TO DO IT AND PUT UP WITH HOW LONG IT GOT IN THE MEANTIME.
MUNCH
BASKETBALL FREAK
tranny
THAT'S WHY I GOT WEIRD LOOKS AT SCHOOL AND HAD NO FRIENDS EITHER.
What a loser!
scrub
scrub
WELL, I ALSO HAD A REBELLIOUS STREAK, SO I CAN'T REALLY BLAME THEM.
Woosh
Wahhh!
I WAS ACTUALLY FEELING LONELY, THOUGH.
THAT'S WHY I SAID THAT WE'RE THE SAME.

ARE YOU SURPRISED THAT I'M SO UNCOOL?
HM?
.....
I didn't know about that.
... BUT...
THAT'S NOT IT.
OH... NO.
.....
"THE STRONG GIRL WHO'S COOL EVEN THOUGH SHE'S ALONE",
THAT'S THE AYA-CHAN YOU WERE ADMIRING.
Now that I think about it, the same goes for Aya-chan's problems and weaknesses...

THE MORE WE BECAME FRIENDS, THE HARDER IT BECAME TO SAY ALL THAT LAME STUFF.
BUT THE TRUTH IS I'M A GUY.
AND ALTHOUGH YOU SAVED ME BACK THEN.
"Why didn't you tell me back then?"
I WAS SCARED I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PROTECT YOU ANYMORE, MITSUKI.

...I'M SORRY.

Even though his arms were much smaller,
the Aya-chan back then
was actually trying his best to support and protect me.

...My heart
is aching.

SOUKA,
ABBY, CHAR
JENI, CHANE,
HUES, VANILLA
IZAL, STEPH
CHAR, STEPH,
KY, KOKUN
STEPH, CHAR
NONA, KEICHAN,
ABBY, ZAI
SOUKA, CHANE
CHAR
This was a multi-group joint project between Summer Rain, Damn Feels, Agent of Change, Matteiru and ShoujoHearts
Big thanks to everyone for chipping in! :D
Summer Rain
summerrain.moe
HARU MATSU BOKURA
BY ANASHIN
CHAPTERS 19-24